

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07  
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01  
SP-02 L-03 /058 W  
-----190028Z 081111 /62

R 141725Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8624  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION NATO  
USEC BRUSSELS  
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 0331

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: ELAB, SP  
SUBJECT: SYNDICAL RELATIONS MINISTER DE LA MATA COMMENTS ON LABOR  
REFORM DEBATE

REF: MADRID 0239

1. DURING THE COURSE OF A CONVERSATION ON JANUARY 12 WITH  
SYNDICAL RELATIONS MINISTER ENRIQUE DE LA MATA. HE  
COMMENTED AS FOLLOWS TO THE EMBASSY ON THE PROGRESS OF THE  
CORTES DEBATE ON THE LABOR REFORM BILL (REFTEL). HE WAS  
DISTRESSED THAT BECAUSE OF WHAT HE TERMED POOR PARLIAMENTARY  
TACTICS. THE GOVT HAD LOST (BY A CLOSE 13 TO 12 VOTE). AN  
IMPORTANT VOTE THAT DAY IN THE FUNDAMENTAL LAWS COMMITTEE  
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THE TRADITIONAL STRONGHOLD OF "BUNKER" ELEMENTS, S TERMED  
IT. IT WAS NOT SO MUCH THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ISSUE (AN  
ATTEMPT TO WATER DOWN THE LIBERAL TEXT WITH REGARD TO TRADE  
UNION FORMATION BY INSERTING RESTRICTIVE LANGUAGE) THAT  
BOtherED HIM. BUT THE FACT THAT IR REPRESENTED A PSYCHOLOGICAL  
AND POLITICAL SETBACK, IF ONLY TEMPORARY. THEY HAD ONLY  
LOST A BATTLE, NOT THE WAR, AND HE REMAINED OPTIMISTIC

THAT THE GOVT WOULD WIN THE MORE IMPORTANT BATTLES TO COME  
IN THE PLENARY SESSION LATER IN THE MONTH.

2. DE LA MATA HAD DISCUSSED THE SITUATION THAT EVENING  
WITH SUAREZ, AND THEY WERE FORMULATING NEW TACTICS TO COPE  
WITH THE TROUBLESOME ANTO-REFORMAISTS IN THE FUNDAMENTAL LAWS  
COMMITTEE. THE MINISTER WAS STILL CONFINEDNT THAT HE WOULD  
BE ABLE TO TRAVEL TO GENEVA TO TALK TO ILO SEC GEN BALNCAHRD  
(REGARDING SPANISH SIGNATURE OF ILO CONVENTIONS 87 AND 98)  
BY LATE JANUARY.

3. COMMENT. THE LABOR REFORM BILL REMAINS STALLED IN  
COMMITTEE. DURING THE DEBATE JANUARY 13, SOME CORTES MEMBERS EVEN  
SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVT CONSIDER EITHER A) WITHDRAWING THE  
BILL FOR LATER CONSIDERATION BY DECREE RATHER THAN BY CORTES  
ACTION. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT THE GOVT WOULD CONSIDER  
EITHER ACTION AT THIS WRITING. AS A MATTER OF FACT, THE  
EMBASSY LEARNED THAT ON JANUARY 13, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT LTGEN  
GUTTIEREZ MELLADO HAD EXPRESSED THE GOVT'S DETERMINATION TO  
MOVE AHEAD ON THE LABOR REFORM BILL. HE DID MAKE THE POINT,  
HOWEVER THAT SPAIN'S DIFFICULT ECONOMIC SITUATION MADE  
LABOR REFORM TOUGHER TO ACCOMPLISH THAN IT WOULD HAVE  
BEEN A FEW YEARS AGO,STABLER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONAL OPINION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, LEGISLATIVE BILLS, AMENDMENTS, LABOR UNIONS, MEETING REPORTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977MADRID00331  
**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3597972  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SYNDICAL RELATIONS MINISTER DE LA MATA COMMENTS ON LABOR  
**TAGS:** ELAB, SP, US, (DE LA MATA, ENRIQUE)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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